Integrated forest policy for Central India region

1677. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated forest policy for the Central India Region is being envisaged by the Union Government to ensure proper protection of natural eco-system;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the long term measures planned for the conservation of fast deteriorating eco-system in Madhya Pradesh and other tribal regions of Central India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Long term measures for ecosystem conservation in Madhya Pradesh and other tribal regions of Central India are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The following measures have been taken for conservation of forests and ecoy-systems:

1. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments:-

   (i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains;

   (ii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation;

   (iii) to set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

2. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal proivsions for the protection of forest.

3. Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Liberalised import policy for forest products. Fiscal incentives to industry which lead to wood-substitution.

6. Central assistance is provided to the State Governments for conservation of fauna, flora and the habitat improvement in the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

7. Afforestation and plantation activities are carried out by the State Governments under various development schemes and the Social Forestry Projects.

8. Steps are taken to enlist peoples' participation in forest conservation and development activities.

Release of seized revolvers/pistols

1678. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of revolvers/ pistols seized by the Customs authorities are being released in favour of departmental officers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to release these revolvers/pistols to Members of Parliament and others also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMEN OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) As per the present policy on disposal of confiscated revolvers/pistols, non-prohibited bore weapons are given to the Officers of the Customs department on loan, according to need, subject to the condition that on retirement/superannuation these weapons are returned to the Department. Surplus weapons of non-prohibited bore, according to the present policy, are being sold to Members of Parliament.

Seizure of Brown Sugar in Bombay

1679. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express (Madras) of 8th October, 1988 that brown sugar worth Rs. 58.5 crores was seized in Bombay from 5 persons travelling on fake South Korean Passport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per details of the case reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, on 7.10.1988, the officers of the Bombay Police attached to the Airport Security at Sahar airport intercepted five passengers bound for Geneva and on examination of their checked-in baggages, brown sugar weighing 58.5 kgs. was recovered and seized.

On further investigation, it was found that the South Korean passports in their possession were fake. Two of the persons were found to be Afghan nationals and the third, an Afghan refugee from Delhi. The other two were Indian and Tibetan national from Mizoram.

No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as this is dependent upon various factors like purity of the drug, places of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.

All the five persons have been arrested for appropriate action under the law.

Crime Data Bank

1680. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Crime Data Bank in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) by when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau was set up in New Delhi in 1986.

(d) An amount of Rs. 710.62 lakhs has been provided in the budget for the year 1988-89.

Arms surrender in Darjeeling in terms of recent Accord

1681. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of arms surrendered by the members of the GNLF and CPI(M) separately in Darjeeling so far in terms of the recent Accord;